



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

October 13, 2009

Assistant Secretary Larry Strickling
U.S. Department of Commerce / NTIA
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4898 B
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Sec. Strickling:

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I formed the Mississippi Broadband Task Force (MBTF) last February to offer me counsel on the options for expanding broadband access to the citizens of Mississippi. The MBTF has spent countless hours reviewing applications and meeting with applicants and entities that currently offer, or wish to offer, broadband access in our state. The results of these efforts lead me, as the Governor, to offer the following comments on the applications pending.

Sustainable Adoption: The Office of the Governor fully endorses the application filed by the Office of the Governor. This application leverages existing resources through the Mississippi State Extension Service and covers all 82 Mississippi counties.

Public Computing Facilities: The Office of the Governor endorses the application filed by US League of Small Town Mayors. They plan to put wireless devices in these small towns across our state in places like fire stations and town halls where they will be available to the public, some on a 24 hour basis. This will complement the State of Mississippi's sustainable adoption plan through MSU Extension.

Middle Mile: The Office of the Governor feels the applications filed by DigitalBridge Communications Corp. in the following counties: Attala, Choctaw, Kemper, Leake, Montgomery, Noxubee, Webster and Winston could benefit citizens in those communities. This technology will offer WiMax coverage to very rural communities which are not part of the fiber market as we know it exists.

Last Mile: The Office of the Governor feels the applications filed by DigitalBridge Communications Corp. in the following counties: Attala, Choctaw, Montgomery, Noxubee, Winston could benefit citizens in those communities. This technology will offer WiMax coverage to very rural communities which are not part of the fiber market as we know it exists.

The State of Mississippi did apply for a mapping grant and still awaits notification of award. Without a comprehensive map, this recommendation is based on what may be incomplete knowledge of the existing infrastructure.

I will continue to work with the MBTF to ensure that Mississippi benefits from this opportunity. Should you have any further questions on my comments or on the strategy our State is deploying, please contact Serena Clark in my office. She can be reached at 601-576-2013.

Sincerely,



Haley Barbour

HRB:hgc